Nevada State Climate Office

Photo by B. Hatchett

Quarterly Report and Outlook

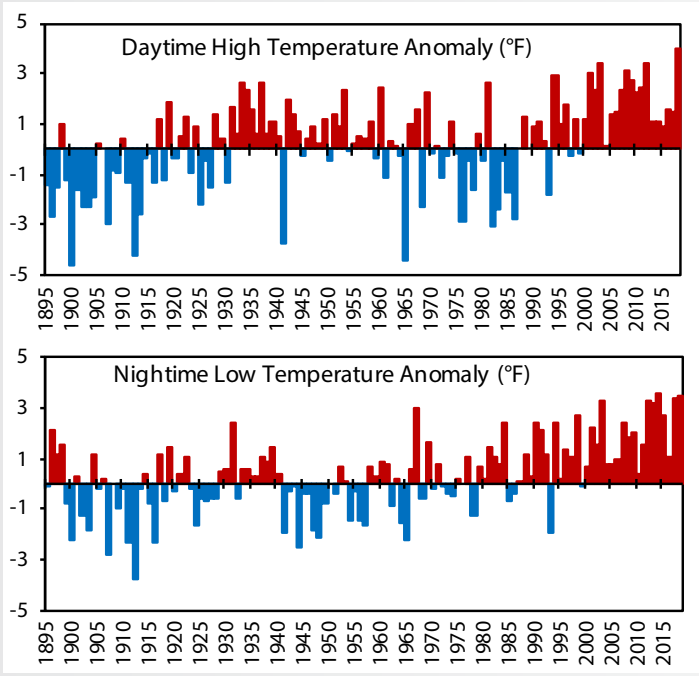
Informe Trimestral y Pronóstico en línea

www.unr.edu/climate/climate-summary

July - September 2018

Notable Weather and Climate in Nevada

July - September statewide temperature anomalies



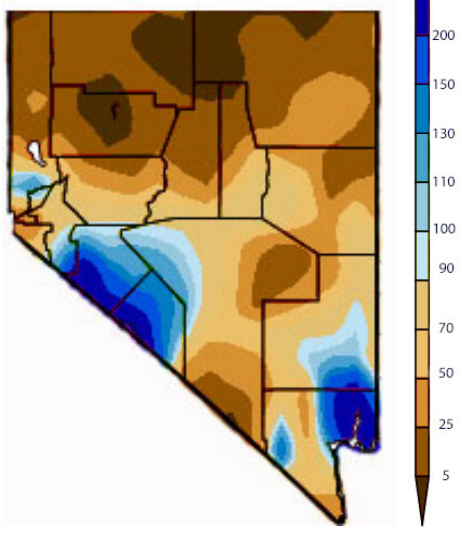
Data from NOAA Climate at a Glance, https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/

This summer certainly was hot. Statewide, the summer of 2018 was the warmest since 1895. Average temperatures were 3.8°F above the 1901-2000 average for July – September. Daytime high temperatures were the warmest on record and 4°F above the long-term average. Nighttime low temperatures were 3.5°F above the long-term average (the second warmest), and just 0.1°F behind 2014, the warmest summer on record.

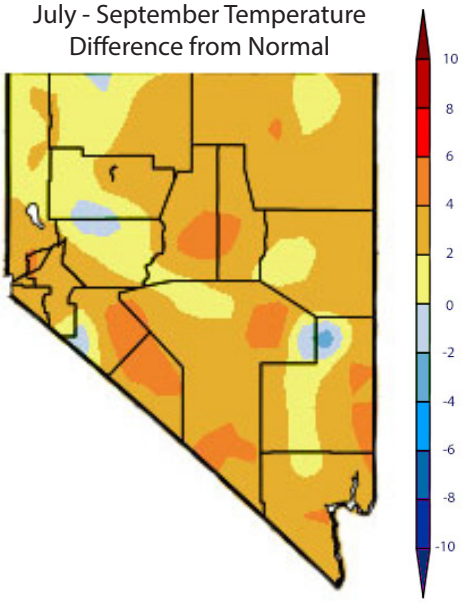
The last time statewide average summer temperatures were below the 20th century average was 1999. That mean there have been 19 (!) consecutive summers when daytime highs and nighttime lows were both above average. That is the longest run of statewide above or below normal years on record. There was an 11-year run of below-normal summer minimum temperatures from 1941-1951. For the 10 years from 1931-1940, maximum temperatures were above normal every summer.

Most of the state was drier than normal as well, although a few areas did receive relatively heavy precipitation. The warm temperatures and relatively low precipitation drove expansion of drought in the Drought Monitor, from 32% in D1-D4 in early July to nearly 48% in drought by early October.

July - September Precipitation Percent of Normal

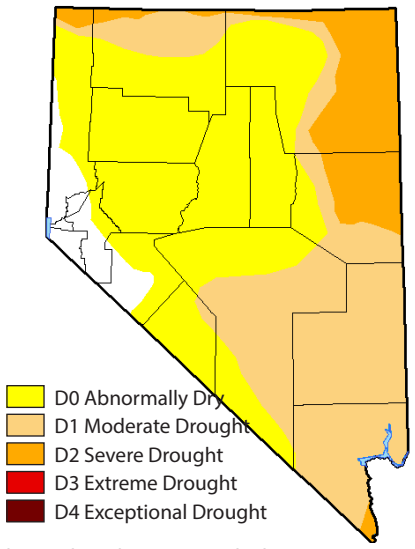


July - September Temperature Difference from Normal



http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/maps.php?map=ACISClimateMaps#

October 2 Drought Monitor



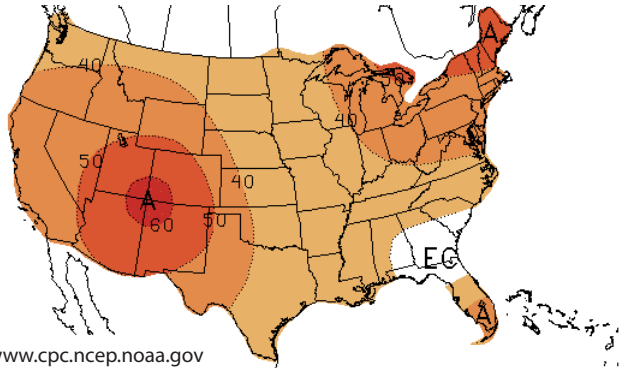
http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu

State Climatologist, Douglas Boyle (douglasb@unr.edu)
Dep. State Climatologist, Stephanie McAfee (smcafee@unr.edu)

Spanish translation, Chelsea Canon

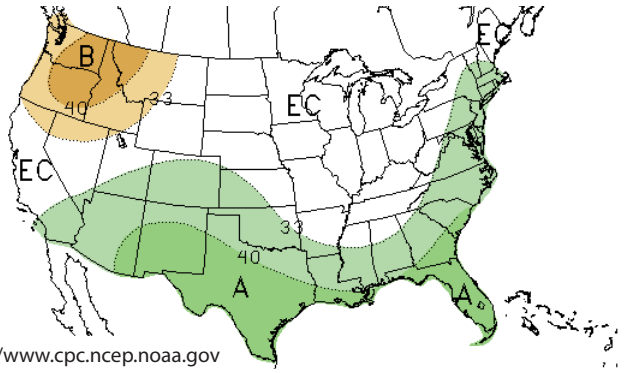
Outlook for October - December

Temperature



http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

Precipitation



http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

The Climate Prediction Center says that a warmer than normal autumn (October - December) is most likely, no matter where you live in Nevada. As always, precipitation forecasts are somewhat less certain. However, there is a 65-70% chance that an El Niño might develop at some point during the winter, and an approximately 50% chance that one might develop earlier. Southern Nevada is often wetter than normal when there is an El Niño, but there is essentially no relationship between El Niño and precipitation in most of the state. Until we have better information, my scientifically supported suggestion is to keep your fingers crossed for your preferred winter precipitation. If you're ever looking for a refresher on how to read these maps, the Climate Prediction Center has some helpful information here: ***http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/seasonal_info.php***.

In-depth

Check out the new and improved Living with Drought website

Whether you're a long-time Nevadan or a newcomer, you will find useful information and resources on the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension's (UNCE) recently revitalized Living with Drought website.

Drought Basics provides detailed information on drought, while the ***Drought Impacts*** tab presents an overview of drought impacts, as well as links to the Drought Impact Reporter *(https://droughtreporter.unl.edu/submitreport/)* where you can describe whether and how your area is experiencing drought.

Links under ***Resources*** connect farmers and ranchers with drought assistance programs, homeowners with low-water landscaping expertise and resources, and all of us with useful information about how to stay safe, save money, and still have some fun, even if it is even drier than normal. This section also includes an extensive library of publications from UNCE and state and federal agencies.

Sometimes it feels like just finding climate, lake level, streamflow, or forest and range data can be a full-time job. The ***Data and Tools*** section makes this a little easier, by providing links to some of the most commonly used national and regional data sources, along with specialized local information.

If you can't find the answer to your question on the website itself, then avail yourself of the ***Drought Expertise*** directory. It lists the contact information for University of Nevada Cooperative Extension employees who can help with a range of drought-related questions as well as links to resources throughout the Nevada System of Higher Education.

Finally, don't forget to ***Get Involved.*** Nevada's a big and diverse state, and your observations are key to accurately tracking drought conditions.